of blood in various parts of the State through State Blood Transfusion Council website to monitor the availability of blood in various blood banks in the State.

Kidney problem in Goa

675. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that residents of Canacona Taluka, specially those living along the coastal and hilly areas in Goa suffer from mysterious kidney problems which has remained un-diagnosed for the last several years;

(b) whether the State of Goa has ever requested the Central Government to help them in diagnosing the problem;

(c) whether any Central agency has visited the Taluka for the purpose; and

(d) the details of the report, Government have obtained, if any, from the said agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi the high prevalence of Kidney diseases in Canacona Taluka of Goa has been a matter of concern for the local people for the last several years. The Epidemiological Cell, Directorate of Health Services, Government of Goa approached the Council's National Institute of Occupational Health, Meghaninagar, Ahmedabad. The NIOH team visited Goa and carried out Environmental cum Biological monitoring in February, 2005. It observed that clinically the disease seems to be similar to Balkan Endemic Nephropathy (BEN) which is an environmentally acquired disease, possibly caused by mycotoxin produced by fungi in mouldy cereals and food commodities; and aromatic compounds present in the drinking water. Further conclusion can only be drawn by correlating the clinical picture biotechnical investigation of blood and urine and other pathological investigations and its correlation with environmental factors.

Vaccine for cholera

676. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientists in the University of Tokyo have developed a vaccine from rice to cure cholera disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the requisite quality of rice is available in India;

(d) if so, whether Government will take clue from the scientists from Tokyo to indigenously develop the vaccine; and

(e) the anticipated cost of new vaccine as compared to traditional one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to Indian